

almost every point in the Northern Selkirks and has been such a point of discussion for many years, should be so near collapse.

WILLIAM L. PUTNAM

Mount Robson. Mount Robson was the scene of many attempts this past summer. The northwest ridge saw two attempts—one by Willi Pfisterer, the Austrian guide, and two others who got to within 250 feet of the summit in early July. Dangerously loose powder snow on the ice towers turned them back. A Harvard Mountaineering Club party reached the same point later in the summer. Fred Beckey and Ed Cooper attempted the north ice face in early July reaching a point some 750 feet below the summit from a high camp at 10,500 feet. Compacted powder snow on hard ice and the horizontal rock bands forced retreat. An attempt on the east face in June of a Seattle party led by Al Randall was stopped by the inclement weather prevailing in June. Two members reached the top of the Dome.

MEXICO

Miura Bulls, an unusual mountaineering hazard. One of our best local climbers here (Mexico City—*Editor*), Carlos Palomé, has just climbed the Grand Teton. He considers the bison he saw there just a shade less dangerous than the Miura bulls, the most aristocratic breed of fighting bulls brought over from Spain for the bull-ring. These are the bulls most feared by the matadores. Sometimes we poor mountaineers have found ourselves unwittingly in the presence of these animals. Though we try to keep clear of their pastures, by some miscalculation we find them where not expected. They are fenced off the open highways and kept in the back hills. In order to keep up their spirit, these bulls are not driven or corralled but left to shift for themselves. Their owners sometimes think a steep, bare, rocky ridge is a barrier for them, but it hardly is for us and we find ourselves among them. These bulls are not so dangerous in herds but a bull cut off from the main group is to be avoided.

OTIS McALLISTER

SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia

Sierra Nevada de Cocuy. A seven-man expedition left Cambridge University in June for the Sierra Nevada de Cocuy, a range of mountains in the Cordillera Oriental, 200 miles northeast of Bogotá. Our aim was to split up on arrival at a base into three parties and to study the Tunebo

Indians, who inhabit the foothills, the geology, and the glaciers of the range. The mountains contain the greatest single area of snow and ice in Colombia. The leader of the whole expedition was David Stoddart. The members of the glaciological party were John Rucklidge, who climbed in British Columbia in 1957, David Dare and myself. We left our base on the western side of the range and established a camp at 13,500 feet in order to carry out a series of observations on one glacier in particular, the San Pablin Glacier. We spent most of our six weeks in the field there, though, in the intervals between work John Rucklidge and I crossed other glaciers and climbed two peaks. At first, work on the glacier was delayed by a lack of acclimatization and bad weather. Acclimatization appears to be a peculiarly trying problem in equatorial regions; with regard to the climate, January is apparently the best month for visiting the mountains of Colombia. However, our work was only held up temporarily. We were able in the end to complete a plane-table survey of the glacier and to measure its velocity, the accumulation of snow and the melting of ice on its surface. Our data and observations may prove useful to those who try to understand the complexities of tropical glaciers. Mountaineering had to take second place to the scientific work. All the major peaks of the range had, in fact, been climbed and could be reached in a day from a camp below the snow line. Furthermore the rock was rather poor, so that from various points of view there was little scope for first-class mountaineering. Rucklidge and I did complete two ascents and made various traverses in the vicinity of the San Pablin Glacier. One of the peaks climbed was Picacho (17,100 feet), first ascended by a previous Cambridge expedition. For a week, we joined the geologists on a trip to the south of the range where we climbed Toti (16,600 feet). We completed this excursion with a new high-level traverse back to the San Pablin Glacier. We reunited at the base at the end of August and shortly afterwards all except Brian Moser, who remained to work for an American oil company, returned to England.

RICHARD SMYTHE, *Cambridge University Mountaineering Club*

Peru

Swiss Expedition to the Cordillera Vilcabamba and the Cordillera Blanca. The Swiss left Mollepata on May 20 to climb in the Cordillera Vilcabamba in two different groups. Ernest Reiss, Seth Abderhalden, Franz Anderrüthi, Dr. Hans Thoenen and Erich Haltiner reached Base Camp in the Pumasillo group on May 25. They made the first ascents of the following peaks: Kaico (17,275 feet), Pucapuca (17,880 feet), Paccha (17,060 feet), Cho-